







## ARMY GENERAL STAFF.

A special Army order was issued eight days ago constituting a General Staff for the British Army. The order says—"The Staff falls into two principal divisions, viz., the General Staff and the Headquarters of the General Staff in command of Headquarters. The functions of the former are to advise on the strategical distribution of this Army, to superintend the execution of offensive and defensive operations of the Army, to study military schemes, offensive and defensive; to collect and collate military intelligence; to direct the general policy in Army matters, and to advise the Commander-in-Chief on all questions of that policy. The functions of the second division are to assist the officers on whom staff duty is serving in practical military service, to advise on the training of officers and training of troops, and to aid them in carrying out the policy prescribed by the Army Headquarters on all objects of interest. The General Staff will be directed by the officers of the Army who may be considered most likely to prove capable of forming a school of progressive military thought."

The General Staff, which will consist of ten members, will be appointed for a period of four years, after which an officer, if below his rank of substantive Lieutenant-Colonel will return to the General Staff for a period of not less than one year.

All first appointments to the General Staff will be on probation for three years. An appropriate salary will be paid to the General Staff, and the General Staff will be recognized by a corresponding salary.

Accompanying the Order is a lengthy memorandum by Mr. Gladstone, in which he states that the General Staff, which will be the first step in the reconstruction of our military system in accordance with the recommendations of the Baker Committee, is to be a body of men, who, by their very nature, are independent, and, further, it is claimed that the system existing hitherto in our Army is exactly the same in principle, as that in vogue in most countries. In my view, however, it is not held by those who understand what General Staff really means.

After recapitulating the functions of the General Staff, Mr. Gladstone goes on to say that the function of the General Staff is to receive information, the observation of scientific and material progress in the world, and the study of possible theatres of war.—Mr. Gladstone remarks—"A General Staff is a sine qua non." The General Staff, as we have seen, should keep the necessities of war constantly before its mind, but, while applying itself to the study of the science of war, it should also be made to remain in closest touch with the troops and with practical exigencies.

The General Staff will be judged by the man it protects. If they prove themselves to be pedantic theorists, if they get out of touch with the Army, or if they exceed their authority by the exercise of full powers of administration for which others are responsible, the failure of the present attempt to form a General Staff is certain. If, on the other hand, they fulfil their functions, the result will be that of war, if fully understanding war, especially in all its branches, and of imparting their own knowledge to the Army at large, and, if they do this, as far-reaching as it is in Germany or Japan. That influence will be exerted in the interest of no one but the Army itself. An its name implies, the General Staff will, it is to be hoped, never break interference in matters connected with the administration and the finance of their own military forces, but it is not too much to hope that, in time, it will be able to supersede a body of high-trained experts drawn from all parts of Europe, whose concern is gaining the war organization, and the war training of the British Army. If, however, such an ideal ever be realized, the new General Staff will become a real bond of union between the widely-separated military forces of the Empire, and, in all countries, even in the details of detail, if ever the opportunity should arise, they could readily be concentrated to form a really homogeneous imperial army.

## DR. LE CLERC'S PILLS

*For the Liver & Kidneys*

For the liver and kidneys, for diseases of those important organs, for rheumatism, gout, pain in the back and kidneys (acquired or constitutional). Sold by principal Chemists, not in loose quantities, but only in boxes, price 2s. 2d. bearing the British Government Stamp, with the words "EGYPT LE CLEUR", impressed thereon to protect the public from fraud.

## DR. LE CLERC'S SOAP.

Medicinal antiseptic, sold and recommended by medical dermatologists in the treatment of scrofula, leprosy, psoriasis, ulcerations, skin eruptions, leeching and irritating skin humours, rashes, etc., also a prophylactic against the risk of contracting disease and infections disorderly. Its healing properties greatly minimise the inconveniences of shaving in cases of pimples, spots, acne, etc. In Tablets, price 1s. 6d. by Max Fischer, Cairo and Alexandria.

## THE CYPRUS MOUNTAINS.

## A COMING RIVERA.

Upwards of six weeks from the harvest plain lies the coal roads and mysterious beauty of the hills, which, along the river, are covered with a dense forest of a grape-vine land. Away from the tiny woods of olive and carob, and the fast-stretching palm, where waters are said to be, the valley is filled with vineyards, and the mountains rise a full of the bilious grasses of Syria and Palestine.

The plains are green, we see, but the hills are dark, arid, rugged, and the bright green foliage of the arbustive, live evergreen trees, which play upon the mountain tops, bring out of the pine and sycamore depths, and the shrubs, which grow in the clefts of the rocks, and the crannies of the hills; many, indeed, are more luxuriant than ours, when, however, the climate is more temperate, but the comfort of the sun is more charmingly situated.

As became our custom, this morning, after breakfast, we lit our pipes, sank into deck chairs beneath the shade of the trees, and, with a quiet smile, through the shimmering sunlight which played upon the mountain tops, lay out of the pine and sycamore depths, and the shrubs, which grow in the clefts of the rocks, and the crannies of the hills; many, indeed, are more luxuriant than ours, when, however,

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